

'Iraqi tankers not to defy blockade'

WASHINGTON (R) — Iraqi tankers and other cargo ships have been given new orders by Baghdad not to defy the Western blockade in the Gulf region, Bush administration officials said Monday. The decision could remove a major flashpoint from the month-old Gulf crisis. On Aug. 18, U.S. warships fired warning shots across the bows of two Iraqi tankers, but the Iraqi ships refused to stop. The U.S. officials, who asked not to be identified, said intelligence reports indicated Iraq had reversed earlier instructions to ship captains to ignore any attempts by U.S. and other warships to search these in the volatile region. The officials confirmed a report by CBS television that the captains had been told to allow U.S. and other ships to stop their vessels and board and search them if requested. The reported order followed to allow warships to use minimal force to implement U.N. trade sanctions against Iraq. U.S. officials declined immediate official comment on the report. President George Bush has said repeatedly that U.S. warships are shadowing any suspicious Iraqi ships moving through the Gulf and Red Sea.

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Yemen launches mediation effort

SANAA (R) — Yemen is sending envoys to Moscow, Tehran and the United Arab Emirates in an attempt to find a diplomatic solution to the Gulf crisis, the Yemeni news agency (SABA) reported Monday. The agency said Industry Minister Mohammad Said Al Attar had left for the UAE and the minister of state for foreign affairs, Abdul Aziz Al Dali, went to Iran. It also reported that Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Arian would leave Tuesday for Moscow. The envoys were expected to deliver messages from Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh to the heads of state of the three countries and discuss ways of heading off military confrontation in the Gulf. In Yemen's southern city of Ta'iz thousands of protesters took to the streets Monday in a display of solidarity with Baghdad in its confrontation with the U.S.-led foreign forces. Radio Sanaa said the protesters sent messages to Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein and his Yemeni counterpart expressing readiness to join "forces defending the Arab will and struggling with the Iraqi people."

King sends messages to Gulf leaders

SALALAH (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwao Al Qasem Monday conveyed a message from His Majesty King Hussein to Sultan Qaboos Ibn Sa'ed of Oman. The message deals with the current situation in the Arab Gulf region. Qasem arrived to Oman Monday after a similar mission to Bahrain and later proceeded to the United Arab Emirates.

Ships being searched in the Red Sea

AQABA (Petra) — A Saint Vincent ship docked at Aqaba port Monday, unloaded and then left the port, the Jordan ports corporation director General Awad Al Tal said. He said the ship was strictly searched at the entrance to the Gulf by the U.S. navy and then was allowed to sail. Another Indian ship carrying goods from Europe arrived at the port, Tal said. He added the ship was stopped for inquiry on its shipment and then was allowed to sail. Official sources in Aqaba said that S.G.M. Paris, a ship carrying car spare parts, was prevented by the U.S. navy from entering Aqaba port to unload. The sources said they received a message from the ship informing them that the ship was prevented also from unloading at Saudi and Egyptian ports.

Yemen says British consul can stay

LONDON (R) — Yemen has agreed to allow a British diplomat it had accused of spying in Aden to finish his tour of duty in the country, the Foreign Office said Sunday. Consul-General Doug Gordon was given 48 hours to leave Saturday, apparently after photographing a refinery and military sites, but a Foreign Office spokesman said he could now stay. "The ambassador has been told by the minister of foreign affairs in Sanaa that Mr. Gordon may remain until the end of his tour of duty and leave in the normal way," the spokesman said.

Bangladesh foreign minister plans visit

DHAKA (AP) — Bangladesh Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud said Monday he would visit five Gulf states this week to check on the fate of about 100,000 Bangladeshis in Kuwait and Iraq. Mahmud, however, said he was not visiting Iraq. A government spokesman earlier said the minister was scheduled to visit Iraq during his week-long Gulf tour. "I have no plans to visit Baghdad," Mahmud told a news conference. Mahmud is expected to leave Tuesday for the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Iran and Turkey.

Iraq jams Western broadcasts

LONDON (R) — Iraq is jamming Western radio transmissions to the Gulf but the stations are stepping up broadcasts to thwart Baghdad in a battle of the airwaves. The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) and the Voice of America (VoA) said Monday Iraq was jamming their Arabic language broadcasts to the Gulf. Bill Whitacre, chief of VoA and the external services of West German, Swedish and Japanese radio stations were adding frequencies to get their broadcasts through.

'Muslims cannot accept U.S. forces in S. Arabia' — Iraq

NICOSIA (R) — Iraq said Monday the presence of U.S. forces on Saudi territory was the most dangerous act of aggression against Arabs and Muslims since the dawn of Islam. The Iraqi News Agency (INA) quoted Iraqi Information Minister Latif Nassif Al Jassam as urging all Arabs, Muslims and people of good will in the world to exert extraordinary efforts to "diminish the American aggressors from the area."

U.S. expels Iraqi diplomats, France seeks U.N. measures

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The State Department, retaliating against the Iraqi crackdown against the U.S. embassy in Kuwait, Monday ordered a two-thirds reduction in the Iraqi embassy staff. It also limited the remaining Iraqi diplomats in Washington to a 40-kilometer radius of Washington. State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said the Iraqi embassy staff was being reduced from 55 to 19. Those expelled included seven diplomats and 29 members of the non-diplomatic staff. In addition the department imposed close controls on Iraqi embassy funds to finance the education of Iraqi students in the United States. Tutwiler said the actions were being taken in response to a list of Iraqi actions since the Aug. 2 takeover of Kuwait, including the "illegal order for all embassies in Kuwait to shut down."

U.N. chief: Time ripe for mediation

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Now that the Security Council has authorized military force to cut off Iraq trade, Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said Monday the time was right for a diplomatic solution to the Gulf crisis. Perez de Cuellar will fly out Wednesday for talks Thursday in Amman, where Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz. The talks will deal with Iraq's takeover of Kuwait and detention of hostages, among other subjects. Early Saturday morning, the Security Council voted to authorize the use of military force by the United States and other foreign naval forces patrolling the Gulf to halt ships bound to or from Iraq. Hours later Perez de Cuellar offered to act with Iraqi officials. Aziz, who said the U.N. chief is "always welcome" in Baghdad. That was the fifth resolution adopted overwhelmingly by the council since Aug. 2 takeover of Kuwait; various resolutions condemned the attack, demanded the withdrawal of the Iraqi army and release of all foreign hostages, and the financial and trade embargo, and rejected Iraq's offer with Kuwait. Perez de Cuellar said Monday that there are no pre-set plans to go to Bagdad, but his spokeswoman, Nadia Oumes, has stressed that all lines are open. Iraq has rejected the Security Council resolutions, and Aziz has called the council "a pawn" of the United States.

Moscow's stance on Gulf crisis angers Jordanians, including leftists

By Lai K. Alhadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Moscow's support for the United Nations Security Council Resolution 665 allowing use of force to impose an embargo against Iraq has got way for unprecedented spread of Jordanian frustration and disappointment over the Soviet Union's peevish appeasement of Baghdad at the expense of Arab feelings. Leftist Janian activists told the Jordan Times Monday that politicians were considering organizing a march to the Soviet embassy in the next few days, he match takes place it will mark the first-ever popular Janian protest against Soviet policies in the region. Although Jordanians had complained about Soviet unwillingness to provide the Arab world with similar support that U.S. renders Israel, there were very few arguments mostly by the Islamists — which perceived

Moscow as a hostile power. Even following the shift to the Soviet foreign policy, which accompanied Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroika and the subsequent Soviet withdrawal of support for Third World allies and national liberation movements, many Jordanians, according to analysts, were hoping that Moscow would not completely abandon its old friends. "People were becoming sarcastic and bitter about Soviet policies but they did not expect Moscow to go as far as conceding to all of the U.S. demands and positions," a Jordanian leftist said. Right from the outset of the Gulf crisis many Jordanians were stunned by Moscow's lining up with Washington against Iraq. "We did not expect Moscow to condone the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait, but to support unprecedented resolutions which provide cover for American domination of and actions in the area is unjustifiable," said an activist who belongs to a Marxist Palestinian group.

Arafat proposes Arab force to Kuwait, elections

BAGHDAD (AP) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat Tuesday proposed that an Arab peacekeeping force be deployed in Kuwait for six months to replace Iraqi troops while elections are held. Arafat, who arrived Saturday with Yasser Abed Rabbo, a member of the PLO's Executive Committee, made his proposals in meetings with senior Iraqi officials, according to sources close to the talks who spoke on condition they not be identified. The proposal is designed to defuse tensions arising after Iraq's takeover of Kuwait Aug. 2. The elections, to be held within six months, would establish a new political system in Kuwait. Sources said the system would be similar to Monte Carlo, a constitutional monarchy which has signed a convention granting certain administrative rights to France. The new sheikhdom would be semi-autonomous under the plan. The PLO has said it was necessary to find a quick settlement to the conflict to avoid war and refocus international attention on the Palestinian issue. Although the PLO has publicly criticised the takeover of Kuwait, it also has criticised the Western intervention in the region. The position has prompted widespread criticism of the PLO in the West and in Gulf Arab allies of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, the source of much of the PLO's financial support. An estimated one million Palestinians live and work in

those countries, including about 300,000 in Kuwait. Many of these have been leaving the country since the trouble started. Sources at the PLO headquarters in Tunis said the proposals aim at freezing the military buildup in the Gulf, then the bilateral withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait and the U.S.-led multinational force from Saudi Arabia. Then, negotiations could begin between Kuwait and Iraq under Arab League auspices. Abed Rabbo said Monday that the PLO welcomed the participation of other countries in the peace effort. He said the PLO was open to any suggestions "based on the package settlement President Saddam Hussein had proposed." Saddam has proposed a settlement of the Kuwait issue in return for an Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territories. Washington has rejected that initiative. The PLO and Iraq view the rejection as a double standard being applied by the United States in its dealings with the Middle East. A diplomatic source claimed Monday that Iraq was mistreating Palestinians and this is turning up the heat in a PLO debate over its initial support for Iraq. However, a PLO source dismissed the claim as "American propaganda." The diplomatic source said many returning Palestinians are "very bitterly anti-Saddam" because they lost their possessions when they fled after the takeover of Kuwait.

King pursues consultations with Maghreb leaders

Jordan, Libya share common views on Gulf; Monarch in Tunis, due in Algiers

TUNIS (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday continued his efforts to arrive at an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis and held talks with Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali shortly after his arrival in Tunis from Libya where he met with Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi. He was scheduled to leave for Algeria later Tuesday. In Tunis, the King also met with Arab League Secretary-General Chadli Klibi and senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials. A Jordanian official accompanying the King said the Tripoli talks resulted in Jordanian-Libyan consensus on the need to launch an initiative to solve the Gulf crisis. According to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the King's talks with Qadhafi "showed that both sides held identical views, calling for an Arab solution which would help the Arabs avert a real catastrophe in the Gulf."

Gorbachev wants Iraq to back out

MOSCOW (Agencies) — President Mikhail Gorbachev said Monday it was now up to Iraq to find a way out of the crisis caused by its takeover of Kuwait, TASS news agency reported. Gorbachev, in talks with visiting Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid, described the situation in the Gulf as extremely dangerous and Baghdad was in a "dead end." "Political means are not exhausted, but maximum effort is needed to avert an armed conflict," TASS quoted him as saying. Gorbachev also emphasised "the necessity of bringing the Arab factor to bear more strongly" on Iraq, TASS said. "The circumstances are such that Arabs should show their ability to unify quickly and to make joint decisions in their own interests and in the interests of the whole world," TASS paraphrased Gorbachev as saying. "This would be highly appreciated by the international community," he added. "Iraq should draw the right conclusions from the solidarity expressed by the world community, should not deepen the crisis, but seek for itself a way out of this dead end," Gorbachev said. Egyptian radio said Sunday that Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak had sent Abdul Meguid to Moscow for a 48-hour visit. At the same time, Abdul Meguid's number two, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Boutros Ghali, went to Paris with a letter for President Francois Mitterrand.

The Soviet Union, Iraq's largest supplier of weapons prior to Baghdad's takeover of Kuwait, has been maintaining broad diplomatic contacts to try to defuse the crisis and achieve a political settlement. But Moscow was quick to denounce the takeover and after a week of intense contacts Saturday backed a U.N. resolution authorising limited use of force by naval forces massed in the region. After a two-day visit to Moscow by French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, France and the Soviet Union issued a joint statement at the weekend urging Iraq to comply with U.N. Security Council resolutions. Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Saadoun Hammadi held two days of talks here last week, as did a senior Saudi envoy. Moscow's special envoy in the Middle East met in Baghdad on Sunday with Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat, who urged the Soviet Union to play a greater role in resolving the crisis.

Flow steady across border but officials expect tide

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The regulated flow of evacuees from Kuwait and Iraq continued at a steady pace across the Al Ruweished Monday, but officials forecast a massive influx in the next few days. A total of 12,267 arrived Monday by the border post, and another 568 landed at Queen Alia International Airport aboard flights from Baghdad, an official statement said. A breakdown of the Al Ruweished arrivals showed that the list was led by Egyptians (5,465), followed by Bangladeshis (3,056), Indians (2,246), Filipinos (1,799), Pakistanis (647), Chinese (607), Syrians (389), Yemenis (233), Thais (227), Yugoslavs (146), Lebanese (101), and Saudis (92). Border officials said the process was proceeding smoothly, but that all indications were that the numbers could rise dramatically in the next few days. One official, speaking to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity, said border authorities

Manglapus transits Jordan today on Baghdad mission

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Philippine Foreign Minister Raul Manglapus passes through Amman Tuesday in a mission to Iraq aimed at facilitating the evacuation of the estimated 40,000 Philippine nationals stranded in Kuwait. Manglapus has already visited Tehran and secured Iranian permission to open its border to allow foreigners to leave Iraq. Manglapus, who was originally scheduled to arrive Monday but had to take a detour through Dubai after a Tehran-Damascus flight was cancelled, will now seek Iraqi permission for his people in Kuwait to leave by ferryboat to one of the Iranian ports in the Gulf, according to Philippine Ambassador to Jordan Pacifico Castro. "We are hoping that we could get permission for a ferry link from Kuwait to Bandar Khomeini," Castro told the Jordan Times. According to marine experts, the best port to take in evacuees from Kuwait will be Umm Al Qasr in Iraq's south. The other major Iraqi port, Basra, remained closed because the Shatt Al Arab, the waterway which marks the border between Iraq and Iran, is clogged with wreckage of naval vessels sunk during the initial days of the Gulf war in 1980. "We can also take our people to Abadan for onward flights home," Castro told the Jordan Times. However, he said, Manila had not framed its final decision on any specific plan, including a possible transfer of its people aboard a

passenger vessel from Bandar Khomeini. Several other Asian countries are looking forward to the result of Manglapus' talks in Baghdad since they could also be the beneficiaries of an open Iraqi-Iranian border and Kuwaiti sea links to evacuate their nationals. These include India, which Manglapus visited en route to Tehran, Pakistan and Bangladesh as well as Sri Lanka — representing a total of about 400,000 potential evacuees. Iran has not specified the nationalities that it would allow in, but it was widely believed that it would permit all nationalities. "For humanitarian considerations, the Islamic Republic of Iran agrees to the transit of foreign residents of Kuwait and Iraq through its borders," Foreign Minister Abkar Velayati was quoted as telling Manglapus in a meeting Sunday. Over 2,500 Philippine nationals are now in Jordan awaiting flights home. Over 1,200 have already been flown home, Castro said. The government is providing free passage aboard special Philippine Airlines aircraft flown to Amman, he added. In addition to the 40,000 who live in Kuwait, another 10,000 Philippine nationals work in Iraq. Manila's embassy in Kuwait has advised its nationals to leave. Another purpose of Manglapus' visit, which includes a return to Amman on Thursday after talks in Baghdad with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz, is substitute oil purchasing arrangements after Manila imposed sanctions against Iraq in line with U.N. Security Council resolutions. Manglapus has already clinched the deal with Iran during his visit.

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Queen visits Health Ministry, JNRCS

AMMAN (J.T.) — Queen Noor Monday visited the Ministry of Health and the Jordanian National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) and reviewed their activities and enhanced efforts to respond to the medical and welfare needs of the people of Jordan in the face of the current challenges. The Queen was also briefed on plans to reorganize and expand nursing colleges in Jordan.

The Queen was briefed on the activities of both the ministry and JNRCS by Minister of Health Mohammad Adoub Al Zaben and JNRCS President Ahmad Abu Qoura.

In view of the current pressure on both institutions as a result of the influx of Arab evacuees from Iraq, Queen Noor emphasised the importance of the role of the ministry and the JNRCS in coping with the exceptionally high demand for relief and assistance services.

The minister said that his ministry had established emergency and first aid centres at the Iraqi-Jordanian border point of Al-Ruweished and at Aqaba. The ministry has also established an emergency centre equipped with a communication network that links Amman with hospitals and clinics located between the borders in the east and Aqaba in the south, the minister said.

Dr. Al Zaben said that the ministry had also taken measures to ensure speedy transportation of emergency cases to hospitals, and to increase the number of staff and ambulances at Al Rishbeh Health Centre and at Al Ruweished Hospital.

The Ministry of Health has also assisted civil defence training courses being conducted throughout the Kingdom, by providing instructors (doctors and nurses) and medicine.

Her Majesty commended the ministry's effort and stressed the importance of maintaining an adequate level of preparedness by the health services to meet future challenges and address national need, during these stressful times.

Queen Noor informed the minister of the international contacts she has made to secure equipment, material and financial assistance to meet the present crisis and future needs.

The minister briefed the Queen on plans regarding nursing colleges in the Kingdom. The two nursing colleges in Amman and Zarqa have already been merged into one college based in Yajouz (combining nursing and midwifery) and a second nursing and midwifery college is being established in Irb.

At the office of the Jordan National Red Crescent Society the society's president Dr. Ahmad Abu Qoura said that JNRCS was working in close coordination with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to meet the needs of tens of thousands of Arab evacuees flooding into Jordan from Iraq and Kuwait. He also briefed the Queen on JNRCS's efforts to provide training and services which Jordanians might need in any possible future emergency.

The society has sent a medical team to Ruweished, accompanied by three nurses (two of whom are ICRC personnel), and seven people to help register evacuees, set up tents and provide and provide sanitation and environmental health services, Abu Qoura said.

He said two tents erected at Ruweished serve as a waiting room and an examination centre. The society also provided an ambulance for speedy evacuation of emergency cases to the nearest hospital, he said.

Another medical team was posted between Ruweished and the Iraqi border post at Treibil. A first aid post is being set up in Aqaba to offer relief and assistance to evacuees leaving Jordan via Aqaba, Abu Qoura said.

The ICRC has provided large tents of 110 square metres each, to be set up at Ruweished to provide protection for the evacuees from day time heat and cold at night.

The Queen acknowledged the important contribution of the Jordan National Red Crescent Society and its role in assisting Jordanian citizens in the existing and coming period of severe economic hardship.

205,000 cross into Jordan from Iraq by Monday noon

RUWEISHED (Petra) — Since the start of the Gulf crisis and until noon Monday a total of 205,000 citizens of various nationalities crossed into Jordanian territory through the Ruweished border post, according to Brigadier Abdul Hamid Ershaid, director of the border and aliens section at the Public Security Department (PSD).

He said that after the re-opening of the border last Friday between 10,000 and 15,000 Arab and foreign nationals have been crossing into Jordan from Iraq after fleeing from Kuwait.

Most of those arriving through Ruweished, he said, are Egyptians who so far totalled 122,000.

Other nationalities included Sudanese, Tunisians, Syrians, Lebanese, Jordanians, Thais, Indians, Philippines, Sri Lankans, Italians, French, Russians, Americans, Chinese, Koreans, Yugoslavs, British, Polish, Bulgarians, Tanzanians and Spaniards.

Ershaid said that Jordanian authorities had embarked on setting up to two huge camps between the border posts of Ruweished in Jordan and Qadisiyah in Iraq to accommodate thousands of arrivals. "The two camps will be supplied with water, food and electricity, Ershaid said."

Ruweished District Governor Aktham Al Majali said that five ambulances were stationed on a permanent basis at the border post and two mobile military hospitals with 15 beds were ready to offer urgent medical treatment. The Ministry of Supply has been supplying free meals to the expatriates, he said.

Ruweished Hospital Director Hilmi Bisharat said that several medical units had been put on alert, and medicines had been made available to deal with common and contagious diseases. He said that doctors and nurses had been on full alert.

Jordanians send humanitarian aid to 'the children of Iraq'

By Mariam M. Shabin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The first shipment of foodstuffs and medicine as humanitarian aid to the children of Iraq left Monday, nearly one week after the appeal to aid Iraq's children began. The shipment of 10 trucks was seen off by about three hundred men, women and children as directors of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) supervised the campaign they initiated nearly a week ago.

"From the children of Jordan to the children in Iraq," read dozens of banners carried by children and grown ups alike as they oversaw the departure of ten trucks carrying foodstuffs and medical supplies on the airport highway just off the 7th circle.

Children posed for cameras and said that they came "because America wants to bomb Iraq and make their children die." While children and mothers posed with pro-Iraqi banners GUVS officials gave television interviews, explaining over and over again to dozens of foreign reporters that the appeal was not a "publicity stunt" but an appeal for humanitarian aid.

Westerners had to be reminded that "if Iraqi children go hungry so will the foreign children in Iraq."

"It's sad that these foreigners don't seem to understand that they are about to starve a people and that this is wrong whatever the reason," said one woman participating at Monday's event. Children from the S.O.S. children's village were bused in for the occasion.

Almost 250,000 Jordanian dinars in donations have been collected since the appeal entitled "Milk & Medicine for the Children of Iraq" began a week ago, according to the union's President Dr. Abdullah Khatib.

The purpose of the appeal is intended to bolster humanitarian support for Iraq's 17 million people in general and its 5 million children in particular, said one of the appeals organisers. "The economic blockade, which has been condoned by the world community, threatens to starve the Iraqi people for political reasons," said the organisers.

Western reporters badgered Abdullah Khatib about the implications of breaking the blockade by the shipment which was carrying milk, eggs, chicken, dairy products and medicine. "Our aim is not to break the blockade, we are a welfare society and to our knowledge food is not part of the boycott and should not be," Khatib told reporters.

He reminded some of the American Mononite Church had sent humanitarian relief aid to the Vietnamese while American warplanes were bombing Vietnam in the early 1970's. "That was humanitarian aid," said Khatib, "and this" he said pointing at the loaded trucks, "is also humanitarian aid."

Khatib said that most of the donations which had been made thus far came from "lower and middle class Jordanians and some groups outside Jordan." The wealthy Jordanians had not made their share of the contributions yet, Khatib said. "Except for half a dozen wealthy Jordanians the rest have not yet contributed," he said.

Khatib said that he was grateful to the Jordanian pharmaceutical industries who had all contributed to the appeal and the World Council of Churches who have so far contributed \$30,000.

Khatib told the Jordan Times earlier in the day that several foreign, mostly European shipping agents and companies had refused to deliver foodstuffs, including milk, which were destined for Jordan. "There is a ship with milk destined for Jordan docked in Singapore which should be in Aqaba, but the ship's owner does not want it to go to Aqaba," Khatib said.

Since Jordan is dependent on importation of most of its foodstuffs, Khatib and other GUVS officials expressed worries that Jordan may be in need of humanitarian help in the near future if foreign companies intended to apply the "de facto" embargo on Jordan.

Ministry of Health prepares plan for evacuees

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Health Mohammad Adoub Al Zaben said Monday that the ministry had prepared an emergency plan to meet the needs of the evacuees coming from the Arab Gulf region.

Zaben said an emergency room was prepared at the ministry to facilitate communications between the ministry and the health centres and private and public hospitals in the Kingdom.

Some of the medical centres are now considered evacuation centres, Zaben said. He said that these centres were equipped with all the medical needs, including medical cadres and ambulances.

The minister pointed out that every hospital has an integrated plan which provides for the medical cadres and has full coordination and communications with the ministry. These hospitals, he said, were provided with fuel to generate electricity for a period of minimum two weeks in emergencies. Medicines are available in sufficient amounts, according to Zaben.

Zaben said he had inspected all areas with evacuees.

He said centres where the Arab nationals gather were equipped with medical cadres, medicines and necessary medical requirements.

The minister called the Jordanian citizens to cooperate with the medical centres and the Civil Defence Battalion (CDB) in assisting evacuees and pointed out that there were many citizens who volunteered to help the centres and the CDB.

Aqaba Health Department Director Al Rahman Al Shobaki said that at hospitals suffer most from sunstroke and exhaustion.

Shobaki told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that Aqaba Health Department had taken all the necessary measures to serve the large number of Egyptian nationals during their stay at the port city of Aqaba before they are transported by ships to the Egyptian port of Yanbu. For this purpose, Shobaki said, three fully-equipped emergency centres were opened recently at the gathering sites of the Egyptian evacuees.

"The medical services offered to the evacuees are of the best that can be offered," he said. "The department examines samples of water from these areas four times a day to check if it is fit for drinking, he added."

He said that 100 to 150 patients visit the centres every day. "Since the beginning of the crisis 168 cases were referred to Haysa Al Hussein Hospital," he said.

UNRWA staff aid evacuees

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) said Monday that it had placed some of its staff, assisted by scouts from the agency's schools, at the Amman International Fair at Mary Al Hamam to provide assistance to expatriates fleeing Kuwait and Iraq.

At least 11,000 people of different nationalities are being put up at the centre west of here, and UNRWA has set up 42 tents on the centre's grounds to give shelter to Yemenis, Sri Lankans and Pakistanis. The majority are Yemenis who count about 600, according to an UNRWA official.

He told the Jordan Times that doctors and medical assistants were offering free medicine and medical treatment around the clock and water was being supplied by the agency on a permanent basis until the crisis is over.

"A group of 25 scouts from UNRWA's schools together with a selected number of teachers are helping the staff to offer assistance and to distribute 500 free meals supplied by the agency daily on a daily basis," the official added.

He said that UNRWA's Amman Training Centre was currently hosting some 600 nationals from the Philippines who have fled Iraq and Kuwait.

Meanwhile the Professional Association Complex in Amman announced Monday that it was accommodating 1,600 Yemenis on its grounds and caring for another 400 Yemenis put up in mosques around the complex, offering them three meals a day.

A statement said that the complex had opened a clinic and referred 100 cases to local hospitals. The complex's information spokesman Jamil Al Nimri appealed to Jordanian citizens to provide cash and in-kind contributions to assist the evacuees.

Nimri said that the Manonite Charitable Society had contributed \$5,000 worth of powdered milk and children's food to be distributed through the Professional Association Complex.

In Karak it was announced that the Arab Potash Company (APC) workers had decided to contribute a day's pay to buy food for Iraq's children. It said that a group of housewives living in the company's housing complex had decided to raise further contributions for Iraq.

Qasem conveys message to Bahraini leader

MANAMA (J.T.) — Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem Monday conveyed a verbal message to Bahraini Emir Sheikh Issa Bin Salman Al Khalifa from His Majesty King Hussein about the situation in the Gulf and means of containing the Gulf crisis.

The Emir and Qasem exchanged views about the situation. Qasem explained Jordan's position and underlined the need for an Arab solution and Jordan's rejection of any military solution, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

It said that the Bahraini Emir asked Qasem to convey greetings to the King.

Municipality readies for war, emergency cases

AMMAN (J.T.) — Greater Amman Municipality Monday announced measures which, it said, would be taken as part of the national efforts to provide services to the public in times of wars, emergencies and natural disasters.

A statement following a meeting chaired by Amman Mayor Ali Suheimat said that a central emergency office would be set up in downtown to serve as an operations room to direct teams for urgent services in various parts of the Greater Amman area.

All municipality departments, with their staff of technicians and workers and the equipment have been placed on round the clock alert to deal with any eventuality, said the statement.

"All public shelters and even caves available within the Amman area will be cleaned and sprayed with insecticides and provided with essential services to be ready to give shelter to members of the public," the statement said.

It said that apart from offering essential services, municipality staff have been trained on rescue and fire fighting operations.

Meanwhile training of civilians in matters related to civil defence and rescue operations were reported continuing in various parts of the country.

In Zarqa a total of 150 women in three districts have acquired training in civil defence and first aid operations and 300 others have been registered for new courses which are being held at the rate of six a week. The courses are supervised by civil defence authorities.

According to Lt. Colonel Abdul Rahman Al Nasser from the Civil Defence Department (CDD) in Zarqa, his men have already offered training to 560 citizens in the Zarqa region and 1,039 others are currently receiving training.

Indian minisers to seek increased evacuation flights

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Indian government should immediately increase the number of emergency evacuation flights for Indians leaving Kuwait to cope with an expected surge in the number of people arriving here, two Indian state ministers said Monday.

"We have personally inspected every phase of the evacuation process as well as the difficulties encountered," said T.K. Hamzah, minister of public works of the southern state of Kerala. "We believe that there are two major areas where the Indian Embassy here should be strengthened; one is the documentation involved in processing the evacuees' homeward flights and the other is the number of flights."

Narhari Amin, home minister of Gujarat, agreed with Hamzah and added that "in light of the projected rise in the number of Indians arriving here in the next few days, immediate steps should be undertaken to speed up the process in all its spheres."

Hamzah and Amin visited the Jordanian side of the border with Iraq at Al Ruweished, 360 kilometres northeast of Amman Sunday for firsthand information on the state of affairs at the frontier post, which has so far witnessed a flow of over 205,000 people of different nationalities, including about 9,000 Indians.

Both ministers had words of praise for the Jordanian authorities. "We realise that it is an enormous task that is facing, and we very much appreciate the facilities it is extending," not only to Indian nationals but also to the thousands of others who are arriving every day," Hamzah said.

"With increasing flights and speed up documentation of Indian evacuees, there will be no problems here," said Hamzah, who, along with Amin, paid visits to the various shelters Indians are being accommodated pending their flight home on a first-come-first-served basis.

Amin said that there was a visible rise in the number of Indian families arriving here across the border after a "traumatic trip across the Kuwaiti-Iraqi desert in the few days." "Until now, the 'was more or less of men, we noted from embassy rds," Amin said.

"But now are more families coming I believe that there should be a minimum of backlogs to reduce the difficulties and children face the evacuation process."

Amin was in contact with his minister, Chiman B. Patel, the phone and had informed of the "realities of situation here and recommend action."

The governments have already agreed for emergency measures Bombay to deal with the cases and to facilitate their home from Bombay.

Both Zah and Amin agreed the Indian Embassy here doing its best to render able services to the evacuees. "Considering the local infrastructure and available facilities, the embassy is doing a very good job," the minister of Kerala said. "We (Amin and Hamzah) visited Saudi Arabia before arriving here and saw the evacuation arrangements there, but then the number of people in Saudi Arabia was less than 1,500. In the case of Jordan it is going to be tens of thousands, as I was told."

The two ministers also met with a high-powered five-member Jordanian committee which is entrusted with tackling all aspects of the evacuation process, starting with formalities at the Al Ruweished desert post, where the temperature could go as high as 45 to 47 degrees centigrade high in summer, transportation of evacuees into Amman or to the port of Aqaba (for Egyptians and North Africans to take a ferry across the Red Sea to Nuweibeh in Egypt), sanitation, health, food, camping.

"I have a very good picture of the situation here and this I will be relaying to my government and my people back in Kerala," Hamzah said. "There is a great deal of anxiety at home over the developments in the Gulf, and I hope to give my people some relief that their relatives and others are being taken care of in the process of leaving Kuwait and Iraq."

Expatriate children face no problems enrolling in schools

By Ali Masarwah
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordanian schools enrolled more than ten thousand children of Jordanian expatriates who left Kuwait in the wake of the Gulf crisis which erupted following Iraq's take-over of Kuwait Aug. 2.

According to sources at the Ministry of Education, all newcomers had succeeded in enrolling in Jordanian schools with no serious problems arising from this unexpected influx of students.

"We knew that the situation in Kuwait could influence the educational sector in Jordan, so we have been setting up plans to accommodate expatriates' children in our schools since the crisis began," Director of education and educational supervision Khaled Al-Sheikh told the Jordan Times.

Among the measures taken by the Ministry of Education to cope with the situation are an increase in the number of teachers and facilitating additional classrooms. If necessary, afternoon classes will also be introduced during the 1990-1991 scholastic year, according to ministerial sources.

Jordanian students coming to the country from Kuwait and other Gulf states are being given a four weeks' respite to provide their new schools with the necessary certificates and documents to complete registration at Jordanian schools.

For students unable to come up with the necessary certificates, a placement test will be arranged by the end of September.

Asked about possible difficulties which could face the expatriate children in Jordanian schools due to the different educational systems in Kuwait and Jordan, Al-Sheikh said that students could adapt to the Jordanian system easily because courses in Kuwait and Jordanian schools were similar.

"We have had many students coming from the Gulf every year, and they did not have any difficulties in adapting to our scholastic system whatsoever. The educational systems in all Arab states are much the same, due to the unified educational standards set by the Arab League," Al-Sheikh said.

Canada pledges \$2.5m to assist evacuees

AMMAN (J.T.) — Canada announced that it would provide up to \$2.5 million in emergency assistance to help alleviate the plight of refugees fleeing into Jordan from Iraq and Kuwait.

A statement from the Canadian Embassy in Amman said that Prime Minister Brian Mulroney made the announcement in Ottawa Sunday and that he wrote to His Majesty King Hussein to inform him about Canada's decision and its understanding of the particularly difficult situation in which Jordan finds itself at present.

In his letter Mulroney stated that Canada was ready to ease the burden of Jordan and to assist the innocent civilians who had been caught up in the current crisis.

It quoted the Canadian premier as saying that the contribution would be used to respond to humanitarian appeals from international agencies such as the United Nations Disaster Relief Organisation (UNDRO) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

The announcement followed the arrival Sunday night at the Queen Alia International Airport of two planes loaded with medical equipment and relief supplies offered by a society of physicians in the Netherlands, Belgium and France as well as the Geneva-based ICRC.

APPEAL

MILK & MEDICINE FOR THE CHILDREN OF IRAQ

An appeal directed to the human conscience all over the world, starting from Jordan.

From the children of Jordan to fathers and mothers wherever they are.

The children of Jordan from the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) who are aware there is still a responsive human conscience appeal to all citizens in Jordan, to the local, Arab, regional and international organisations and institutions and the world child organisations and to leaders of the world's countries to end injustice against the children of Iraq who are threatened with being deprived of bread, milk and medicine.

The children of Jordan demand all to implement the principles of the international declaration on children's rights which provides for protecting and taking care of children under all circumstances, in all times and in the days of war and peace alike. The principles of the international declaration on the children's rights by which all the world abide by linking between these rights and the child's basic needs. The declaration's provisions under articles No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10 guarantee the protection and welfare of children as well as social, food, and educational security and their right to grow up in healthy conditions in the times of war, peace and disasters.

The children of Jordan appeal for providing milk, food and medicine supplies for the children of Iraq.

This appeal comes on the eve of convening the world summit for children in which many leaders of the world's countries will take part to protect childhood.

As we head our call from the General Union of Voluntary Societies in Jordan we appeal to fathers and mothers to respond favourably to this call. Let us share our food together.

Cash and in-kind donations are received at the following centres:

The General Union of Voluntary Societies - Jabal Luweibdeh, Tel. 634001, 634009, 630398.

GUVS - Amman Governorate	Tel. 639555
GUVS - Irbid Governorate	(02)242518
GUVS - Zarqa Governorate	(09)981712
GUVS - Balqa Governorate	(05)555285
GUVS - Karak Governorate	(03)351169
GUVS - Ma'an Governorate	(03)324777
Aqaba Islamic Charitable Society-Aqaba	(03) 316130
GUVS - Tafila Governorate	(03)342365
GUVS - Mafraq Governorate	(04)432040

Donations are received daily until 7:00 p.m.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- Open and workshop for artist Samia Zara displaying paintings and hand-painted fabrics. Location: off 2nd Clipperton Road (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).

FILM

- German entitled "Kamkazi" at the Goethe Institute - 8:00 p

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

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Heart-broken U.S. may want to remember

WASHINGTON is all of a sudden heart-broken over the non-implementation of U.N. resolutions. Has the U.S. record on the respect and implementation of U.N. resolutions including 242 and 338 been more honourable, one would easily sympathise with its vociferous and militaristic reaction to Iraq's refusal to heed the recent string of Security Council resolutions. Sympathy for Iraq is understandable in view of the fact that such recent resolutions were orchestrated, produced and directed by the White House. In this vein it is most unfortunate that the Soviet glasnost and perestroika policy has meant giving the Americans more leeway to do what they want with the smaller countries of the world. Hitherto, the rivalry between Moscow and Washington was often translated into the application of the system of checks and balances in the international arena. Now Washington has no counter power on earth to check its use of raw power to achieve its selfish national interests, and the law of the jungle where the strong will dominate the weak will surely prevail. Likeminded Arab countries must therefore unite and coordinate their policies more than ever in the face of the mounting pressure on them to undermine their right to determine their future freely. If the U.S. is allowed to get a way with its present imperialist policy, the Arabs will have very little chance to reassert themselves in the international arena. King Hussein is at his finest hour in his attempts to protect Arab national honour and interests and his behind-the-scenes goodwill efforts to salvage the situation will go down in history as a most memorable act that all future generation will revere with pride and lasting hope.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTRIES

AGAINST all odds and the wishes of war mongers, King Hussein has embarked on a tour of Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Mauritania and Libya in a bid to save the Middle East and the world from a real disaster, said Al Rai daily Monday. The trace between the hawks and the doves is on; and the peace loving people are doing all that in their power to defuse the tension and pave the way for peace, the paper said. Should a war break out, it said, it can by no means be confined to the Gulf region but would rather result in a catastrophe for all parties. It is in the interest of the Arab nation to try to halt the calamity; and the talks between King Hussein and the leaders of the Maghreb Union are designed to achieve that goal, said the paper. Since the emergence of the crisis in the Gulf, King Hussein has not left a stone unturned in his ongoing efforts for peace, despite the numerous odds facing him and his Kingdom and amidst the beating of the drums of war. The King is now making a last ditch attempt which we all hope will be crowned with success, the paper hoped. It said since the Gulf crisis is an Arab problem, it should no doubt be solved by the Arabs themselves; and it is time for all Arabs to realise this fact and act to avert war.

In view of the conspiracies hatched by certain Arab heads of state against the Arab nation and in view of the ongoing U.S.-British-Zionist onslaught on the Arabs and Muslims there can be no alternative for the Arab and Muslim masses but join efforts and rid their countries of the agents of imperialist powers, says Abdal Rahman Omar. It is time for the Arab masses to rise against those despots who serve imperialist interests, who have their hands on Arab and Islamic wealth and who direct their masses against other Arabs and Muslims, the writer calls. The Gulf crisis presents the Arabs with the question of to be or not to be, and makes it incumbent upon all Arab masses to rally for the support of Iraq in its confrontation with the colonial forces and their agents in the Arab World, the writer continues. It is time for the Arab masses to rid themselves of the bonds of slavery and tutelage, and to take possession of their oil wealth which has been denied them by their Arab rulers for long, Omar adds. He criticises the Soviet Union and China for allowing themselves to be carried away with the Americans and for siding by acts of injustice. For the first time in Soviet history since the October revolution Moscow allows the Americans and their allies to launch aggression on a country bound to the Soviet Union by a friendship treaty, says the writer. He notes that as certain Arab leaders together with the Soviet Union and China have now succumbed to Washington's imperialist will, the Arab masses can no longer allow themselves to remain silent living under the oppressive rule of imperialist stooges.

Al Dastour daily expressed belief that the countries of the Maghreb Union can and should play a leading role in the ongoing attempts to end the Gulf crisis peacefully. The paper said despite the fact that these countries are thousands of miles away from the Gulf, they realise that the Arab world as a whole is targeted by the current crusade and by the American-led armada massing in that area. For this reason, the paper added, Arab masses now look to the Maghreb Union countries to help back King Hussein's efforts to avert war and bring about peace to the whole region.

The View from Fourth Circle

A fearsome fleet's last gasp

By Rami G. Khouri

NOW into the fourth week of the Gulf crisis precipitated by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, I would suggest that Kuwait itself has become something of a sideshow, and the real nature of the conflict has started to become more clear. This is not a conflict over the territory or oil wealth of Kuwait, or the security of Saudi Arabia, or the political morality of the Iraqi leadership. It is, ultimately, a conflict about the nature of political identity among the 200 million people of the Arab World.

It is perhaps the final battle in a conflict that has festered in this region for about 500 years, from the day in the mid-16th century when the Ottoman Turks occupied our region and initiated the modern phase of European and Western colonial control of Arab people and resources — a two-way dynamic which has its antecedents in ancient history, with the Greco-Roman occupation of our countries, and the Islamic conquest of parts of Europe.

Throughout this century, Arab political identity and geographical sovereignty have reflected the post-World War I imperial legacy of England, France, Italy, Turkey and other European powers. This was the great Arab catastrophe of the first half of the century. It was followed soon after by the catastrophe of the second half of the century, the creation of Israel, the disenfranchisement of the Palestinians, and the inability of the Arabs to come to terms with the American/Israeli combine.

The cumulative Arab catastrophes and failures of this century were compounded by top-heavy, often autocratic domestic political systems that provided few opportunities for self-expression or participation by the average person and, more recently, a track record

of economic mismanagement, incompetence and corruption that has seen the Arabs close out the decade of the 1980s with a collective foreign debt that increased from around \$25 billion in 1980 to around \$180 billion in 1989 — while our real standard of living declines, confidence plummets, capital flight increases, and our dependence on foreign imports continues to increase, especially for food. So much for the joys of nationhood.

In sum, the Arab experience of the 20th century has not been easy or normal, and has generated neither pride nor confidence. Faced by the collective failure of our public identity, we turned inward to ourselves and our families, seeking first to assure the primary needs of income, food, shelter and education, and then finding comfort, greater meaning and a wider identity in our religion, our tribe, our rich history, and when it got very bad, in our memories, and our dreams.

Our Arab political environment was a failure, often even an embarrassment, from the day that we emerged as states from the loins of our imperial guardians in Istanbul, Paris and London, and were then passed on to our teenage foster parents in Washington. We have lived as lame countries because we were born crippled of selfish and unnatural parents who would not let us mature and live as independent adults. They loved us so much as children that they wanted us forever to remain six years old.

Therefore, it is no surprise that the two most significant political movements in the Arab World in the past decade have been the turn to fundamentalist Islam and the demand for democratic pluralism. Together, these have dominated the political scene, and probably account for well

over 75 per cent of the political spectrum in countries where political sentiments can be expressed freely. Both these movements indicate a powerful grassroots demand for change. Arab countries which have appreciated the depth and breadth of this grassroots pressure will have the best chance of making the transition to more rational, responsive and sustainable political systems, and therefore of assuring themselves the stability and security which every society seeks.

Enter the Gulf crisis. The crisis has come as a dramatic manifestation of the stark choice that faces most Arab states — do we find identity, normalcy and redemption in our own nationalism and in our will to live as free and sovereign people who rid themselves of the manipulative falsehoods and imperial interests of the Western powers who have played with us for the entire 20th century? Or, as some Arab states seem to be saying, do we throw in our lot with Americans, Maggie and the Fearsome Fleet — America, Britain and the industrialised states of the West — all the time making polite and perfunctory gestures of respect to Mecca and Jerusalem, while really praying to the false gods of Disneyland, General Motors and the manufacturers of guns?

Kuwait and Iraq are only passing catalysts. The deeper underlying dynamic that has been unleashed by this crisis is about whether the post-colonial order which the imperial powers left us in the early days of this century has any chance to continue. Many Arabs — most Arabs, I believe — are saying that we live in artificial and unnatural countries, with inordinate disparities of resource wealth and population which primarily reflect the

once and future interests of the West's fading imperialism. We are saying that this confrontation in the Gulf should be recognised for what it is: the last gasp of colonialism and imperialism, and a pivotal juncture in the long and checkered history of pan-Arab identity and national aspirations.

It is very interesting that in Arab countries where there is the most freedom of expression — Jordan, Algeria, Yemen, Tunisia and, ironically, occupied Palestine — support for Iraq is greatest. And support for Western Arab forces against Iraq comes from those Arab states where freedom of expression is virtually non-existent, with the perplexing exception of Egypt. (But Egypt, as we have seen, has been lost for a decade somewhere between Barbara Walters' eyelashes and the skyline of Jerusalem; until they snap out of their confusion and decide if they are part of the Arab World or part of the Colonel Sanders Kentucky Fried Chicken Farm and Empire, Egypt will continue to be confused and to confuse).

It should mean something to the Americans, Maggie and the Fearsome Fleet that where there is freedom of expression in the Arab World there is also powerful anti-Americanism and strong support for Iraq. I would assume that were there freedom of expression in the other Arab states, we would see something similar to what we are seeing in Jordan, Palestine, Algeria, Yemen and Tunisia. But, of course, this is uncomfortable for American officials to deal with, so they tend to ignore it, and the Western media, with a few exceptions, goes along with the process of continuing to ignore the lessons of 20th century history. The Americans, Maggie and

Fearsome Fleet respond with a litany of contradictions and double standards, which accentuates the Arab feeling that we are dealing with an imperial mentality that is as dangerous as it is simplistic. We are told about the political crimes of the Iraqi leaders, but we are conveniently asked to forget that the West sold this same Iraqi leaders weapons and food and industrial products for many years, or that the West supported such human rights pariahs as Ferdinand Marcos, the Shah of Iran, Nicolae Ceausescu, the Duvaliers, the South Africans and many others. The political morality of the West's leadership should be judged within the more complete context of the Third World and the West's support for a divided Third World leadership.

Therefore, the Arabs who are free to express themselves reply to Americans, Maggie and the Fearsome Fleet: Enough of your double standards, please use us your false morality. In the name of God and your own people, please learn history's lesson about the brutal guns. If Americans, Maggie and the Fearsome Fleet would stop thinking with the loins and start using their heads, they would realise that even if they were to hit Iraq, remove Saddam Hussein, they cannot possibly use their oil or their regional pawns to maintain in the 21st century Arab political order that was born in the wake of the 19th century and which has brought oppression and humiliation to the Arab people for most of the 19th century. Iraq and Kuwait are no longer the central focus from the perspective of the hundreds of millions of Arabs who seek a dignity that eluded them for the past 300 years or so.

We are probably on the verge of the most significant political restructuring in the Arab World since the borders of all our sunny little ahlan-wasahan countries were drawn up earlier this century. Nobody can predict how and when the changes will take place, but it is certain that the pan-Arab emotions, sentiments and forces which have been activated will start to change the politics and nationalism of the region in a manner based primarily on the desire to pool pan-Arab human, mineral, economic and territorial resources in the service of the Arab people, and on the basis of friendly relations with the rest of the world reflecting mutual respect.

There are no gas masks which the Americans, Maggie and the Fearsome Fleet can put on to protect themselves from the effects of the pan-Arab sentiments which have been released into the air. This is a force which has been bottled up for most of this century, and which will assert itself one day within a context of freedom, indigenous identity, and democratic pluralism. The events of the past decade should make this clear to anyone who takes the time to look at what has been happening in the Arab World. It may be delayed for a few more years or decades, but in the end the Arab will be free and to live in dignity shall triumph — precisely as a similar will triumph in Vietnam, Afghanistan, the Philippines, Southern Africa, South Korea, the former Soviet Empire, and other parts of the world.

In this context, the Americans, Maggie and the Fearsome Fleet look sadly anachronistic, and badly out of synch with history. But, perhaps, such is the inevitable cost of a fading imperial order. Last gasps don't come easy.

America in the aftermath of the Gulf crisis

By Dr. Mohammad Farghal and Dr. Marwan Obaidat

Dr. Farghal is professor of linguistics at Yarmouk University and Dr. Obaidat is professor of English literature at the same university.

THE observer of the current Gulf crisis may wonder about its historical background. He may also wonder about the real motives of the American-instigated intervention in this inter-Arab conflict. This is an attempt to furnish a brief history of the Western and/or American-Arab relations along with an economic and a political analysis of the continuing ominous situation in the Gulf.

Since the Crusades (1095-1291) — the most climactic confrontation in the Middle Ages between the Muslim Near East and the Christian West — the Arab World has always constituted an alien but confrontational entity. And we learn from current conflicts in the region (in Lebanon, the Gulf, and the West Bank) that wars based on beliefs, religious and otherwise, are particularly capable of engendering prolonged animosity, animosity generates hostility and hostility suspicion of the most profound nature. Western attitudes of considerable antiquity have not yet changed; the series of Arab-Israeli and other related conflicts have as well given the West a renewed sense of anxiety and concern, or at best, interest in the region. But rather than providing opportunities for a better understanding of the Muslim World, contemporary East-West relations have followed certain religious, cultural, historical, and, more recently, political ideas that have generated further misunderstanding of this diverse and complex group of nations and peoples, and simultaneously to a coexistent reluctance to change the situation.

The American concern with the region has thus always been set within a complicated array of cultural attitudes, and ideas. In 1764, America's foremost writer, the statesman Benjamin Franklin, wrote a narrative of the Barbary massacres which showed concern

with the problems created for Americans by North African Muslim Arabs. But American contact with the Muslim World was meager then, and military expeditions against North African states (1785-1815) yielded America's first substantive confrontation with the region, and the so-called Barbary war-affair sums up what America actually knew of the Muslim Near East until the very recent past: the Arab-Israeli wars, the Lebanon civil crisis, the rise of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, and the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries. It is, then, within this confusing context that the Muslim World and America confront each other. That there should be misunderstanding and suspicion on both sides is hardly surprising, as reflected is the general situation.

In short, Americans first met the Muslim Arabs through the Barbary wars waged to put an end to the capture of American sailors by the Arab pirates from the coastal areas of North Africa. This Barbary-orientated conflict introduced Americans to our part of the world, and, as might be expected, it offered an unflattering view of the Muslims — Arabs and otherwise — and the unsympathetic image of the entire region was highly exaggerated. Even worse, the Barbary affair involved great hostility, and America found itself immersed in an agonising overseas conflict in a remote corner of the world. General William Eaton, later the U.S. Consul in Tunis, stormed the Tripolitanian city of Derna in 1805 in the hope of removing the threat of the pirates by setting up a puppet government in Tripoli favourable to the United States. The American navy had, however, been waging a desultory war with the Tripolitanian corsairs since 1801, and General Eaton persuaded President Jefferson in 1803 that Eaton should lead an overland expedition against Tripoli. Eaton's concern was to place Hamed Karamanli on the throne of Tripoli from which he had been removed by a usurping brother. Eaton then organised an army in Egypt,

marched across the desert and captured Derna. His military expedition into North Africa furnished the U.S. Marine Corps with the phrase "to the shores of Tripoli" in its official song. The fall of Derna infected American relations with the Muslim Near East at large with a distrust and suspicion that have proved irremovable.

Presently, in the name of protecting international laws, America has unwittingly hastened to despatch its fleets to the Gulf and seek a free passage and an abode for its ground forces with the help of puppet regimes in the region subservient to her demands. A close perusal of recent history, however, proves the American government to be neither heedful to international laws nor to the protection of their allies, other things being equal.

History tells us that the United States has repeatedly violated international laws by transgressing the sovereignty of other nations in order to either set up puppet regimes or frustrate unwanted national aspirations in the relevant countries. Grenada, Panama, and presently Liberia are a few cases from a multitude, and the United States has sadistically watched her allies either collapse or disintegrate-Pakistan and Iran are two obvious exemplars among many.

The question that now arises as to what the real motive is behind the unprecedented mobilisation of American and American-satellite forces against Iraq, is it the transgression on Kuwait's sovereignty? Or is it the salvaging of other remaining Gulf states?

As could be expected, the answer to the above two questions is unfortunately in the negative. The American politicians more than any anybody else are aware that the legitimacy of Kuwait as a sovereign state is recent but it has been controversial since the termination of the British mandate until this very crisis; and the American decision-makers know in the back of their heads that Kuwait was once, at least historically, and should be an integral part of Iraq soil. This being the factual case, the American actions run

counter to putative historical facts. On the other hand, one can't find a single intrinsic motive that could justify the prompt American move to protect the puppet regimes in the Gulf, because these regimes violate every single maxim of American democracy and political institution. The answer to the foregoing question should be crystal-clear to every patriotic and honest Arab: the American government tries hard to continue pirating the Arab wealth. In the meantime, a high percentage of the Arabs are still living in abject poverty. In fact, this crisis has proved that the U.S. has a dogged determination to keep pirating Arab assets, whether it be quietly as it was several weeks ago, or violently as it is happening right now.

While the international economic and political blockade get the American government? The answer is certainly in the negative, at least in the long-run, because the Arab as well as the Muslim World now represented by Iraq and its patriotic leadership with all the Arab masses determinedly marching behind, have just started to fight, and this awakening will inevitably turn the Gulf into an unpleasurable experience for the American invaders and their chessmen if not into an everlasting inferno.

The truth of the matter is that Iraq has neither occupied nor invaded Kuwait; Iraq has only reunited with Kuwait after long years of separation, and the Arabians in Kuwait find in Iraq a uniting and protecting force rather than an occupying power. But the steps were slippery and America made the descent. Be this as it may, at any rate, what was the U.S. response — military and otherwise — to the Israeli invasion of the West Bank, the Golan Heights, Gaza Strip, and currently South Lebanon? What was the American response to the continuing Israeli refusal to implement U.N. Resolution 242? What was the American response to the recent Black Sunday massacre in Palestine? What was the American response to the Israeli air strike of Tunis in 1987? Nothing. Not a thing!

Open Letter to Mr. Bush

Difficult questions for someone on vacation

Dear "Peace prior!"

WE know you don't like being asked and disturbed these days as you are on vacation, but on behalf of the Arab public we want to remind you as a good boss or Bush that you had better postpone enjoying and playing golf till your soldiers who are now "enjoying" desert heat come back "safe" after a settlement is achieved in the area.

You can't imagine, Sir, how all Arab patriots appreciate your being very much concerned about stability or "oil," if you like, in our region!

You can't also imagine how Muslims highly estimate and respect your being so keen quickly respond and intervene to protect the two holy shrines in Arabia!!!

You can't believe, Sir, how the Arab public, especially in the countries whose leaders consider you their dearest "master," sorry, I mean "friend," are conscious of how kind it is of you to give our national security priority even during your vacation!!!

Yes, Sir, you were bit nervous and uncalm as you appeared on TV a few days ago answering questions about the Gulf crisis. While we strongly condone this action which spoils your vacation, we at the same time still appeal to you to tolerate them, for they don't know that your game while vacation might be more important than "game" in the Middle East. We are sure, Sir, they do not know that, to you and all Western leaders, the destiny of the middle east and in the Third World countries is not as important as eg.

Sir, as one has said even on vacation, we'll be very grateful if you just give us a chance to remind you that:

— Selfishness can never be concealed in spite of the tremendously bold colours given to it.

— Saddam Hussein is not the only tiger in the area; all Arabs are tigers who will fight soldiers and all those who try to deprive them of their free.

— We now urge patriots to be cats not tigers, like your agents in the area you should remember that even cats change into lions when freed.

— Why patriots seen as violence in this area?

— We would like to die with dignity for the sake and welfare of our homeland; you love to live for luxury's sake.

— The Arab will never be silenced but will continue to be a perennial challenge to imperialist and selfish policies.

— People's will is the victor at the end and the anger of liberty-seekers and freedom-lovers is much stronger than your BSs and P-115s.

Now, we'll be very appreciative if you kindly try your hand at answering the following questions during the period of relaxation you're enjoying far vacation.

— Don't you find it too late to try and pretend that you are concerned about security and stability in our region?

— Would it be right if I pass every Arab's opinion of who is warmly embracing the Arab and strongly backing the only threat to oil's security, your beloved Israel?

— When do you intend to stop your rough wind that insists to cross the seas to disturb our national security which, without your unwarranted variety of interventions, we can maintain.

Finally, anticipating your usual cooperation in contributing by force to absentee conscience of the international family concerning all Arab issues, we remain,

Sincerely,

A Thorn in Our Enemy's Throat
Majed Al-Korayn
Amman

Handwritten signature: جدي في 28/8/90

The Yankees are coming... The Yankees are coming?

THE UNITED STATES of America Inc. has finally exposed its only interest in the region, oil. By America, I only refer to the policy decision-makers in Washington D.C. and not to the American people at large (and definitely not to the Arab-American community that come and go here; they come ignorant about us the Arabs, and go with some feeling and understanding of what our peoples are, of what we aspire to).

For the past three decades, consecutive U.S. administrations have totally ignored the political aspirations of the Arab masses. No need to go into the details of why this has always been the case. Any Arab child in Jordan or any kid in the Arab World will

tell you about the strong Zionist stranglehold on American governments and Congress, on the U.S. political system, and no the news media.

So, every man in the streets of Arabia will tell you that America's total support for Israel is a foregone conclusion, a fait accompli, a political reality we have learned to take for granted. Because we suffer its consequences daily. He will also tell you that we all know (as we have grown to) that the rights of the Palestinian people, if any came second, to animal rights in mainstream America. Supporting the rights of non-Middle-Eastern Jews to come, transplant, and live in the land of Palestine, and ignoring

the rights of millions of Palestinian Arabs (Christians and Muslims alike) in the process for all these years, has definitely rendered all American governments as public enemy number one to the Arab World. These are daily facts. These pains are daily bread to us, Arab masses... So many generations of us have learned to take these "facts" in stride, in silent pain, and with patience...

This time the American decision-makers have placed themselves so quickly and unequivocally in the middle of the Arab quagmire, still dealing with the wrong people (or should I say, with the wrong handful of Gulf families?). This, the U.S. administration committed its political will to plunge head-first and with lightning speed into an empty swimming pool... More mistakes?? The injury to us masses was your ignoring (along with this Israeli) the historical rights of the poor Palestinians, followed by bullying us for more than 30 years for reminding you of those rights, and to top it up now there comes the insult of your speedy alliance with a few Arab oil sheikhs in the area. Is this the fatal attraction, or a typical error of judgment on your part?

The Bush administration has just declared war against the man in the street in all of Arabia... You should have asked us first, we the ordinary Arabs, the people in the street, the silent majority...

"You should have taken our pulse and temperature, you should have conducted your polls of our opinion in Amman, in the West Bank, in Algeria, in Beirut, everywhere, anywhere in the Arab World (you name it)... And you would have known what we really feel about all this crisis. Let me repeat, go ask the man in the street in any Arab city, and not an Arab sheikh over his mobile phone... What are you getting yourselves into?? Most ordinary Americans do not know much about our history of seven-thousand years as a nation... How dare we expect their government to respect our hopes and our attempts to regain our dignity? If it has not yet worked out the implementation of U.N. Resolution 242, how dare we question the speed of implementing Resolution 660, just fresh out of the Security Council oven? Who are we to object to America coming to rescue and protect a few Arab regimes that were originally drawn and installed by the British lions of a waning empire? Yes, those same colonialists that the heroes of the great American revolution have fought and gotten rid of, so bravely, more than two hundred years ago!

This superpower, America, should think twice now. Do you really want to further antagonise the Arab masses? Do you really want to take the wrong side, again, this time? Do you really believe your interest lies with a princely family of only 6000? Or is it with the 160 million ordinary (and mostly starving) Arabs? If the

former continues to be your choice, then brace yourself to live to regret it... because that is tantamount to Vietnamising us... We will have to resist your army of occupation... Scorched earth, blocking oil-pipes en masse, any style really.

Maybe the present U.S. administration needs to pay more attention to such domestic problems as the "Savings & Loans" debacle, drugs and the ensuing corruption, the homeless, education, abortion, etc... Or is the Gulf crisis now the perfect scapegoat?

Your army has brought along its usual ration of body-bags, which we sincerely hope will not be needed but left to rot in the storehouses. But please remember we have ours ready too: the blistering sands of Arabia... We are almost certain that this time

the American policy- and decision-makers have finally taken a boomerang shot at the Arab masses... Definitely, with very little consideration to our feelings and hopes (same as always, what's new?). Maybe I should be grateful to you, Mr. Bush, for that pre-emptive shot. This is just the spark needed to (finally) awake the dormant Arab nationalism and to mobilise us, the Arab masses, against the last of the crusaders... You see; you have sent troops to fight us over a few wells of 'restricted' oil, some resource that never concerned us... It hardly touched upon us... It did not even pollute most of us yet... Thank you. You have just awakened us to fight back... What for, you ask? For our dignity... For our bread (forget the butter)... For our rights... Think about it, amigos... American University Graduates in Jordan.

Moscow's stance angers Jordanians

(Continued from page 1)

issue be tied to a permanent and just solution to the Palestinian question," a leftist Jordanian politician noted.

Moreover, some recall with bitterness that the Soviet Union, unlike the U.S., has never pushed for equally strong resolutions concerning the Palestinian question.

Observers compare the U.S.'s successive vetoes to kill relatively mild Security Council resolutions to stop Israeli oppression of the Palestinian with Moscow's readiness to support the strongest American sponsored resolutions on the Gulf.

But other politicians here warned that was unrealistic for Iraq and the Arabs to expect Soviet support, particularly after the collapse of the communist bloc.

A veteran member of the Jordanian Communist Party, who insists that he understood and identified with popular frustration said that Jordanians could not accept the changing ally.

"We can no longer rely on automatic Soviet support. This is a reality that we have to take into consideration prior to any Arab step," the Communist, who preferred anonymity, said.

According to the Commun-

ist activist, the Soviet attitude should have been prior to Iraq's calculations prior to its takeover of Kuwait.

More and more people in Jordan are convinced that the cold war between the erstwhile communist bloc and the capitalist world is emerging into an open conflict between the North and South.

"The Gulf crisis is the strongest manifestation of the new form of conflict," one analyst said.

As Jordanians have been watching the international community mobilise against Iraq, many like to think that small countries, like Jordan, Yemen and Cuba might be the only states holding out against American control.

U.S. expels Iraqi diplomats

(Continued from page 1)

Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) ministers, meeting in Vienna, were moving Monday towards an agreement allowing the oil-producing nations to temporarily raise production to help fill the gap caused by the Gulf crisis, sources said.

Ten of the 11 OPEC members at the informal meeting agreed in principle to authorise an increase. Only Iran opposed the move, the sources quoted by the AP said. The two remaining members, Iraq and Kuwait, were not represented.

Qatar, situated on a Gulf peninsula 400 kilometres south of Kuwait, offered the use of its military facilities to multinational forces enforcing the U.N. embargo.

Denmark offered assistance by dispatching a Corvette warship with its crew of 7.6-centimetre guns to the Gulf. France said it was sending 42 attack helicopters from the aircraft carrier Clemenceau to the Saudi government in answer to a Saudi request.

As the offers were made, military chiefs from nine Western nations met in Paris to plan the enforcement of the U.N. embargo against Iraq. The discussions at the Western European Union meeting were not disclosed.

U.S. French and British warships continued to shadow Iraqi vessels in the Gulf. But they did not make use of their new U.N.-sanctioned authority to use military might to enforce the trade embargo against Iraq.

For its part, Iraq allowed 52 American and 19 Japanese businessmen to leave the country (see page 2).

Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens said Monday that Israel would be unhappy with a settlement to the Gulf crisis that left Saddam Hussein in power.

Arens, interviewed on state-

owned television, also denied a published American report suggesting that Israel was trying to press the United States into war over the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait.

"We are not pulling anyone to war or anything else," he said. "At the moment we are not involved. Kuwait is more than 1,000 kilometres away. We will be involved if they attack us, however."

Arens said Israel would be pleased if the crisis ended without bloodshed but added: "We'll not be pleased if Saddam Hussein, with his large army and the advanced technology he has developed... would continue to stand in the same place."

Asked specifically if Israel was worried about Saddam staying in power, the minister replied, "If he stays at his post and would still possess the weapons, there will be a place for worry in our country, in the whole region and I think the whole world."

U.N. chief: Time ripe

(Continued from page 1)

Iraq was prepared to compromise on Kuwait's status. He did say his country would listen to any proposal.

U.S. National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft said the United States will not back down from its insistence that Iraq withdraw from Kuwait. Beyond that, he said, "we're prepared to talk about anything."

A senior Arab military commander said Iraqi President Saddam Hussein told him recently that he is willing to pull out of Kuwait provided he can negotiate acceptable terms. The commander, who spoke to the Associated Press on condition of anonymity, said Saddam had indicated he would not allow the return of Kuwait's deposed rulers, the Al Sabah family.

The U.S. administration is expressing hope the Gulf crisis still can be resolved without military conflict, if worldwide economic sanctions force Iraq to withdraw its forces from Kuwait.

"He's a classic case of someone who is vulnerable to sanctions," Thomas Pickering, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, contended.

"The strategy is to put maximum pressure on Iraq through the U.N.," Pickering said in a televised interview Monday.

"We're watching if the sanctions are going to bite and how rapidly," Pickering said on the U.S. network NBC. Pickering said Iraq was "heavily dependent on oil exports," and "it might be a month or two before it begins to bite."

President George Bush's National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft said he, too, sees the possibility of resolving the crisis without war.

Former national security advisers Henry Kissinger and Zbigniew Brzezinski indicated there was room for hope that the Gulf crisis could be resolved short of military conflict.

Kissinger said he believes that "Saddam Hussein is looking for some way out... if we stay firm... we will get it."

Both Scowcroft and Iraqi Ambassador Mohammad Al Mashat endorsed the concept of a mediating role by Perez de Cuellar.

Mashat contrasted Iraq's "desire for peace" with what he contended was the American "design to have war." He said the U.S. aggressive intentions were demonstrated by the dispatch of offensive weaponry, including Stealth fighter bombers, to Saudi Arabia.

He said the U.S. allegation that Iraq posed a threat to Saudi Arabia "was the biggest deception in history."

Perez de Cuellar said he felt the Gulf crisis had reached such a degree of tension that a personal initiative was "totally indispensable."

He told reporters he would leave Wednesday morning and spend the night in Paris before flying on to Jordan to see Aziz. But he told a questioner that a visit to Baghdad was "not something which I have in mind at this stage."

"My idea is to discuss with the

Iraqis all aspects of the problem, with the view clear aim to try to solve the problem," he said. "We have reached such a degree of tension in rich I thought that a personal initiative of the secretary general was totally indispensable."

Perez de Cuellar said he was very encouraged by the support he had received from many countries. The plight of foreign nationals stranded from leaving Kuwait at Iraq was one of the topics he discussed with Aziz.

Two U.N. officials he sent to Baghdad try to secure the release of other detainees were continuing their effort, but "unfortunately it is not the result I expected," he added.

When reporter asked whether thought British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was wrong when she said the crisis could not be solved through negotiation he replied: "She is a very good friend of mine. I wish she was wrong."

It is so ironic that the Soviet role has always been a source of difference between Jordan and the U.S., but now it is Moscow which seems to be handing over the area to complete American influence," said one observer.

Flow steady

(Continued from page 1)

flow across the Al Ruweished border post. "But, for the next week or so, we have to continue at the same pace since many evacuees have already started on their journey across Iraq to Jordan," said a diplomat.

"Considering that the bulk of them is penniless (because of the closure of banks in Kuwait), they cannot retrace their steps and proceed in the Iranian direction," he added.

Hopes were further raised Monday by a report from Poland that a Polish aircraft landed in Baghdad and took off with about 100 people who were working in Kuwait in what was the first direct evacuation flight from the Iraqi capital.

At least one Asian country had lined up two air force transport planes to fly into Baghdad Tuesday and pick up nationals, but it was not clear whether the flights would be permitted by the Iraqis.

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Economy

Gulf crisis shakes 'the milk sheikh'

DUBLIN (R) — With Ireland's lucrative beef exports crippled by the Gulf crisis, Prime Minister Charles Haughey has recalled parliament to rush through legislation which would give companies protection from their creditors.

The bill, due to go before parliament Tuesday, provides for the appointment of an examiner to restructure a company such as a major beef exporter Goodman International, which because of the crisis has entered into talks with its bankers.

Irish "beef baron" Larry Goodman is owed 150 million pounds (\$260 million) by Iraq, a spokesman for his group of companies said Monday.

The Irish stock market has lost almost 30 per cent in value since Iraq invaded Kuwait.

Press reports said Goodman, who is also known as "the milk sheikh" for his fast-expanding dairy empire, owes up to 500 million pounds (\$850 million) to 33 different banks in Ireland, Europe, Japan, South America and Australia.

"I cannot confirm any figures. It is business as usual. All executives are back at their desks," the Goodman company spokesman said.

Goodman, Europe's biggest exporter to the Middle East, was forced into discussions with his bankers last week. Senior Irish banker Richard Hooper was appointed special adviser to review the situation.

Goodman raised about £60 mil-

Gulf crisis rocks Lebanese lira

BEIRUT (R) — The Lebanese lira changed hands at new lows in Beirut Monday and petrol prices surged as the Gulf crisis bit deep into the war-weary country's economy.

Petrol prices have risen by about 400 per cent in Lebanon since Iraq invaded Kuwait. A car tankful of fuel now costs as much as many Lebanese earn in two weeks.

"We can't take it any more. When shells are flying one can seek a safe haven, but when the economy collapses, there is no place to hide," said Issam Khalil, filling his car at a garage in west Beirut.

The central bank gave no official rate for the lira against foreign currencies but dealers were trading the dollar for 1,000/1,100 liras. Last week's official closure of the dollar was 875,000/900,000. Banking sources blamed the fall in the currency on the crisis in the Gulf.

They said the threat of war between Iraq and pro-Saudi forces had shattered hopes of Arab financial aid to Lebanon which had been due to begin next month.

"Traders and depositors have lost any hope that the economy could recover soon as the possibility of getting Arab aid has disappeared since Kuwait's invasion," one banker said.

Official sources said the government was expecting \$1 billion in aid in September.

The central bank, which used to intervene to stabilise the market, has been unable to pump dollars into the market because its hard currency reserves were only \$500 million, the sources said.

Before the takeover the Lebanese lira traded at 667.00/669.00 to the dollar.

The prices of essential commodities, including food and medicine, have doubled this

month to balance the fall of the lira.

Twenty litres of petrol cost 2,800 liras Aug. 1. Monday, the same amount of fuel cost 15,000 liras.

"This is half of my salary," he said as he paid 30,000 liras for the fuel. "From where am I to get the money to buy bread and milk to my children?" said Issam Khalil.

The banking sources said thousands of Lebanese who worked in Kuwait and Liberia, torn by a civil war, have stopped sending money to their families at home.

"Those working in the Gulf, mainly in Kuwait, used to transfer around \$90 million each month. Now all of that has stopped," one source said.

The political sources said another reason for the economic deterioration was the inability of President Elias Hrawi's administration to take over east Beirut.

Frankfurt bourse soars to record

FRANKFURT (R) — West German prices soared Monday in a technical reaction to heavy losses last week and on hopes of a diplomatic resolution to the crisis in the Gulf over Iraq's takeover of Kuwait, dealers said.

Frankfurt's 30-share DAX index staged its biggest one-day rise on record, closing 95.76 points or 6.14 per cent higher at the day's high of 1,654.80.

Monday's rise all but wiped out a fall of 106.70 points on the DAX in the week up to last Friday.

"There was blood-letting last week. A technical recovery was overdue," said one share trader in Frankfurt.

Another dealer said many investors thought prices could continue rising at least until Thursday when United Nations Secretary General Perez de Cuellar is due to meet Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz in Amman.

Bourses in Paris, Zurich and most other major European centres were like Frankfurt sharply higher by midday.

New York's Dow Jones industrial average put on 49.5 points Friday to close at 2,532.92 and Tokyo's Nikkei average jumped 976 to end Monday at 25,141.76.

Gulf Arab states allow preferential rate of exchange for Kuwaiti dinar

ABU DHABI (R) — Gulf Arab states have started changing small amounts of almost worthless Kuwaiti dinars for hard Gulf currencies to help the tens of thousands of Kuwaiti refugees who fled their country.

The Kuwaiti currency, cut by Baghdad to a twelfth of its former value, is being changed close to its pre-invasion level until the end of the month.

"We have instructed banks in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to accept the dinar from Kuwaitis. The move is in coordination with other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries," UAE central bank governor Abdul Malik Al Hamar told Reuters Monday.

Kuwait's toppled government, which commands huge amounts of cash and investments offshore that did not fall into Iraq's hands following the Aug. 2 takeover, is backing the currency plan.

Much of Kuwait's wealth was immediately frozen by Western

governments to stop Baghdad grabbing it but some money gradually being filtered out into the hands of Kuwait's organisations.

"Kuwait's revenues from investments abroad exceeded its international revenues," said senior UAE central bank official Salim Hamadi.

"I expect that once the Gulf crisis is over, the Kuwaiti dinar will regain its strength. It could even recover before then, depending on the old Kuwaiti government," he said.

Hamadi said the UAE central bank had agreed to accept the old Kuwaiti dinar for a limited period.

OPEC debates pledge to boost output

VIENNA (R) — OPEC Monday debated a draft declaration which would sanction oil production increases to ease gaps in world supply arising from the Gulf crisis.

On the third day of informal talks in Vienna, the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) sought to close a divide between camps either supporting or opposing an immediate boost in output, delegates said.

Iraq's takeover of fellow OPEC member Kuwait has plunged the group into what is president, Sadek Boussena of Algeria, says could be the gravest crisis in its 30-year history.

"The issue is whether OPEC needs to put additional production on the market at this stage," said Indonesian Oil Minister Ginanjar Kartasasmita. "We are harmonising different positions, and we have got quite a long way."

A world embargo on Iraqi and Kuwaiti oil has cut some four million barrels daily from world supply and some OPEC members, led by Saudi Arabia, Venezuela and the toppled Kuwaiti government, want to pump more oil to compensate for this shortfall.

But Iraq, which has yet to send its oil minister to Vienna, refuses to let other countries take advantage of the crisis by boosting output.

Iraq, a traditional supporter of high prices, argues there is no need for immediate action because of high stocks on hand in consuming nations.

The delegates said some members, apparently including Algeria, Indonesia and Nigeria, are acting as mediators to see if there was majority support for a broad statement of principles.

Prolonged Gulf crisis likely to increase Suez Canal losses

ISMAILIYA, Egypt (R) — The Suez Canal, a major source of hard currency for Egypt, would be hard hit if the Gulf crisis continues, a canal official said Sunday.

Already the waterway linking the Mediterranean with the Red Sea stands to lose \$56 million on a yearly basis from the effects of the crisis, said Farouk Abu Taleh, head of Suez Canal's economic unit.

A big factor behind the losses is the halting of shipments to and from Iraq and Kuwait in line with a United Nations trade embargo on Baghdad.

"As for the future of Suez Canal's revenues, nobody but God knows," Abu Taleh told Reuters in an interview.

The Suez Canal earned Egypt \$1.3 billion in 1988.

"But the big effect in reduced Suez Canal revenues will appear if the current crisis in the Gulf continues, especially after Lloyd's insurance announced an increase in rates on oil tankers heading to Gulf states," Abu Taleh said.

He said Lloyd's of London had tripled insurance rates on tankers in the Gulf region, where an international armada of warships have gathered to enforce the U.N. blockade on Iraq.

Abu Taleh said 34 million tonnes of oil exports from the Gulf to Europe, the United States and Japan passed through the canal last year.

Of that figure Iraqi and Kuwaiti oil heading for the United States and Europe accounted for seven million tonnes and Saudi shipments for 16 million tonnes.

"If Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates increase the quantity of oil passing through the canal, this would make up for some of the loss in revenues," Abu Taleh said.

"But if the situation explodes — all oil from the Gulf worth 34 million tonnes will stop coming through the Suez Canal," he noted.

He said the flow of Western warships transiting the canal could not be depended on to compensate for losses in revenue — despite a 25 per cent surcharge — although they did make up a small part of the deficit.

Gulf stock markets

DUBAI (R) — Gulf stock markets, none of them completely out of range of Iraqi missiles and bombs, have coped with the threat of war better than the big bourses in New York and London.

Despite an initial bout of jitters following Iraq's takeover of Kuwait, stock investors in the Gulf have taken the crisis in their stride and shares have lost little of their value.

"There is a return of confidence now the Americans have arrived. My own feeling is that after the dust settles there will be a recognition that this part of the world is still safe," said a Saudi broker.

Since the buildup of Western and Arab forces in the region, shares have started to retrace some of their losses as investors

snap them up at bargain prices. Banks in the region did not get off so lightly because the invasion sparked a stampede of locals and expatriates to get their hands on dollars and other hard currencies.

Gulf brokers say the major reasons for the lack of selling are that only Gulf Arab nationals are allowed to trade Gulf stocks, and Gulf Arab governments, which have an interest in the stability of their own economies, own large tranches of shares.

Individuals tend to be rich, long-term investors, who have already seen a decade of tension during the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war, and a depression of local oil-based economies due to the oil price fall of the 1980s.

They also all tend to go away on holiday during the long, hot Gulf summers. The old city of London stock market advice to "sell in May and go away," does not apply to the average Gulf investor who goes away in May, June, July, and August.

"One reason for the lack of selling is that only Gulf Arab nationals are allowed to trade Gulf stocks, and Gulf Arab governments, which have an interest in the stability of their own economies, own large tranches of shares."

In Oman, a senior stock exchange official said a study of shares in August showed a total drop of only two per cent.

The National Bank of Abu Dhabi's index for the UAE telephone traded market had fallen a modest four per cent, and in Bahrain, which has no official or independent index, brokers also reported modest falls save in some heavily traded issues.

"If you put things in an international perspective that is not bad," said a UAE broker.

Sofia helps Muscovites 'to breathe easily gain'

MOSCOW (R) — More than two million Bulgarian cigarettes were unloaded from railway wagons Monday for quick distribution to Soviet smokers driven to demonstrations over shortages and long queues.

"Moscow smokers will be able to breathe easily again," said an announcer on the evening television news.

Half a dozen men in overalls were seen in the background unloading cartons of cigarettes onto a fork lift from one of 26 wagons. The cigarettes were sent to Moscow — under close guard — to combat shortages which have caused long queues and frayed tempers in the streets of many cities.

D. Dreitsen, an official with the state wholesale trade organisation, said Sunday's cargo amounted to 14 million cigarettes and 2.2 million of them would be on sale today.

"We're counting on this one-off shipment to ease the shortage," Dreitsen said. "The 14 million willow us to hold on until Sept when the Moscow Ducat tobacco factory opens."

Moscowans are estimated 3.8 million smokes. Those unwilling to join que of hundreds of people at cement kiosks have to pay 10 times the normal price for black market cigarettes.

Soviet Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov last week said that the government was buying cigarettes from Bulgaria, Turkey, Yugoslavia and other countries.

Officials blamed the shortage on unrest preventing delivery of filters from Transcaucasia and late payments to foreign suppliers.

GATT group tries to draft rules for farm trade reform

GENEVA (R) — Negotiators began trying to write tougher rules for world farm trade Monday with only 100 days left to come up with a reform package after years of wrangling.

The European Community (EC), the United States and other leading farm exporting nations are committed to substantive bargaining after more than 3½ years of inconclusive wrangling marked by prolonged deadlocks, particularly over the thorny issue of farm export subsidies.

Their task at a three-day meeting of a negotiating group on agriculture at the 105-nation Uruguay round of talks for freer world commerce is to start work on strengthening existing farm trade rules of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and making them more effective.

Tighter rules are needed to implement and enforce the negotiators' aims of lowering barriers to foreign food imports and cutting back production and export subsidies that distort trade by creating surpluses, depressing prices and squeezing efficient producers out of world markets.

Existing GATT rules, governing about 90 per cent of world commerce, are more flexible for farm produce than for industrial

goods. They offer loopholes which governments use to grant subsidies to their farmers and to impose quotas and other curbs on imports.

The negotiators, meeting after a month-long break, will also discuss how to follow up a decision last month that countries should submit by Oct. 1 detailed lists of their domestic support measures for farmers and barriers to foreign imports, along with assessments of their value, and their export subsidy outlays.

This is a preliminary to countries presenting by Oct. 15 specific offers and proposals for reducing farm support.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Friends of Archaeology and Society regrets to announce the cancellation of its trip to KHIRBIT FARIS on Friday, August 31, 1990.

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U.S. dollar	655.0	659.0	Japanese yen 100	447.1	449.8
Pound Sterling	1272.4	1280.0	Dutch guilder	373.6	375.8
Deutsche mark	420.6	423.1	Swedish crown	114.4	115.1
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S. African police report 10 more deaths

Blacks hold protest strike

SOWETO, South Africa (AP) — Tens of thousands of blacks in the Soweto township stayed away from work Monday to call for peace and to protest faction fighting that has claimed more than 500 lives in the past two weeks.

Police, meanwhile, said 10 blacks were killed over the weekend in the eastern province of Natal, the site of black-on-black political violence since 1986.

Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu, addressing a funeral for seven people killed in Soweto, told a roaring crowd that police actions, not tribal divisions, were fuelling the conflict.

"We have never quarrelled because of tribalism," Tutu told some 5,000 African National Congress (ANC) supporters at a Soweto amphitheatre. "The evidence is overwhelming that the

police have not been impartial." Most of the fighting in Soweto and other townships around Johannesburg has pitted Zulus loyal to the conservative Inkatha Movement against Xhosa and other blacks who support the ANC, the country's largest black political organisation.

ANC leader Nelson Mandela and other anti-apartheid figures have accused police of siding with Inkatha, a charge police deny.

The government and many neutral observers portray the conflict as mostly tribal fighting linked to the power struggle between the ANC and Inkatha.

Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi has blamed the ANC for instigating the fighting, which has resulted in some of the worst violence since nationwide unrest during the mid-1980s. Buthelezi

says the ANC wants to crush all opposition.

"Our freedom is at hand," Tutu said to tumultuous cheers. "And there are those (whites) who say they don't want us to have our freedom... so they have made us fight one another."

Heavily armed soldiers and police ringed the amphitheatre, but no incidents were reported.

Buses, taxis and trains in Soweto were carrying roughly a third as many passengers as usual into neighbouring Johannesburg. Many schools were closed and the main streets in the township of 2.5 million people were mostly empty.

The general strike was called by the anti-apartheid Soweto Civic Association to "protest the violence, police behaviour and to mourn our dead." Residents in neighbouring townships also took

part. A group of Xhosa and Zulu tribal chiefs sympathetic to the ANC toured the townships Sunday and said the violence was "not a Zulu-Xhosa conflict, but has its roots in the system of apartheid."

"The problem is the collaboration between the police and Inkatha," said Mwele Nonkonyana, a Xhosa chief.

The delegation, which included seven Xhosa and six Zulu chiefs, said it did not represent any political party. But the chiefs all belong to the Congress of Traditional Leaders of South Africa, a group with close ties to the ANC.

The Zulus and the Xhosa are the two largest tribes in South Africa, but townships in the Johannesburg area have blacks from all 10 major tribes in the country.

African force seizes Liberian rebel ship

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone (AP) — Two Nigerian warships of the West African peacekeeping force captured a gunboat carrying weapons for Liberian rebel leader Charles Taylor, the force communications commander said.

Lt.-Col. John Dungs said the two ships were transporting Taylor's rebel leader, Prince Johnson, to Freetown to make flight connections for a meeting in Banjul, Gambia, when they encountered the gunboat. No other details were available.

Meanwhile, nine soldiers of the five-nation force who were in-

jured during clashes with Taylor's rebels during the weekend in Monrovia were airlifted to U.S. Navy vessels offshore for medical treatment, said Abbas Bundu, executive secretary of the Economic Community of West African States, which ordered the 3,000 troops to enter Liberia to end the eight-month-old tribal war there.

The U.S. ships are providing support for several squads of U.S. Marines who are guarding the U.S. embassy in Monrovia. Bundu said none of the peacekeeping force had been killed.

The force includes troops from Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra

Leone, Gambia and Guinea.

Their introduction was opposed by Taylor, who accuses them of supporting embattled President Samuel Doe. Doe and Taylor's rival, Johnson, have negotiated a truce and have welcomed the peacekeeping force.

The two Nigerian frigates that captured the rebel gunboat, in addition to a Ghanaian frigate, were expected to pick up more men, supplies and armaments before returning to Monrovia, where the force landed Friday night. It already has advanced out of the port area and secured some of the city.

Sri Lankan army moves on besieged Jaffna Fort

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lanka troops advancing to break a siege around a garrison in northern Jaffna town have been slowed by rebel resistance and landmines, military sources said Monday.

"It may take two to three days to reach the fort. Anti-personnel mines and rebels hiding in run-down buildings have slowed the operation," a senior military officer said.

In other fighting, 100 soldiers were dropped by helicopter on Monday at Mullaitivu on the northeast coast, where Tamil rebels have attacked an army for the past week.

The officer said three soldiers had been killed and 31 seriously wounded in fighting at the weekend.

"The reinforcements will relieve the weary soldiers inside the camp. We are trying to airlift the injured to nearby hospitals," he said.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam have been attacking army camps with mortars and rocket fire in the north since June, when they launched a new offensive.

The group, fighting for a Tamil homeland in the north and east where most of the 2.5 million minority Tamils live, broke off year-long peace talks with the government.

Since June they have laid siege to the 350-year-old colonial fort in Jaffna town, attacking it almost daily.

Both sides have suffered casualties. The 200 soldiers and policemen trapped in the garrison have repulsed attempts by the rebels to storm the fort. But the men are short of food and medicine.

Most of their supplies have to be dropped by helicopters which are forced to fly high to escape the Tiger guns.

Military sources said up to 2,500 troops captured Mandaitivu island, about 2.4 kilometres away from the fort, Saturday. The garrison is linked to the island by a causeway across a lagoon.

The sources said that soldiers on Mandaitivu were using artillery on buildings on the mainland where the Tigers have put up bunkers.

"We have to clear those bunkers and also the causeway which is full of landmines. We don't want to get trapped in the open lagoon," one source said.

Since the operation began Wednesday, airforce fighter planes have been bombing rebel targets in Jaffna.

Deputy Defence Minister Ranjan Wijeratne said the aim was to lift the siege and clear rebels from surrounding areas.

Among the confirmed dead are Malaysians Chen Wei-Chi, four, Chen Wei-Chieh, seven, and Yang Li-Chun, 20. In addition to Robert Crossman, the bodies of two other Britons, Bruce Robson, 48, and Sally Aylwin, 47, have been identified.

Police said they believed the cruiser was overcrowded and operating without a commercial licence.

It may have also lacked proper life saving equipment, they said. "We couldn't see any life saving equipment when we towed it in, but we're not sure what happened when it went into the water," an officer at the lake said by telephone.

Police said many windows on the three-decked cruiser were fixed, making escape difficult.

They added no boats were allowed on the lake after 5 p.m. the accident occurred after nine p.m. (1300 GMT).

Differences on abortion cause Germanys to disagree on unity

BONN, West Germany (AP) — An opposition leader demanded Monday that the government within two days reverse its decision that West German women can be penalised for taking advantage of East Germany's liberal abortion law after unity.

The Social Democrats threatened to veto a treaty merging the two Germanys' laws if Chancellor Helmut Kohl doesn't change his mind by Wednesday.

Kohl and top members of his coalition met for four hours until early Monday morning with Social Democrat leaders in search of smooth passage for the treaty in the legislature.

But hours of negotiations failed to break a stalemate over the abortion issue.

Kohl's government made a controversial decision last week that West German women should be prosecuted if they travel to East Germany for abortions after Oct. 3 unity.

The Social Democrats insist West Germany's stiffer abortion law cannot be extended to East German turf.

Another round of negotiations is set for Wednesday.

Herta Daehle-Gmelin, a top Social Democratic lawmaker, de-

manded that Kohl reverse his position. She pointed out that Kohl would never get the two-thirds majority needed in parliament to pass the final unity treaty without the backing of the Social Democrats, West Germany's second-largest party.

"He wants a treaty and must have the majority," she said.

Ms. Daehle-Gmelin said passage of the treaty is not absolutely necessary for unity, and that the West German parliament could pass interim measures for meshing the two Germanys' laws if need be.

The treaty will cover various issues, including distribution of sales tax revenues among the German states, how to settle claims by West Germans seeking the return of their former property in East Germany, and abortion.

Failure to pass the treaty would not jeopardize the Oct. 3 date set for the unification of the two German states.

But it would mean that most West German laws would go into force in East Germany after unity takes place, a move East German Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere has said would not serve the best interests of his compatriots.

East Germans are increasingly

unsettled by the prospect of simply being absorbed by their richer neighbour and having to adjust to an entirely new economic and legal system.

Politicians in both countries, women's groups and government officials have been debating for weeks over the most desirable abortion law for a united Germany.

While the Social Democrats are pro-choice, Kohl's conservative Christian Democrats support restrictions on a woman's right to an abortion.

East German women have a legal right to an abortion within the first 12 weeks of pregnancy.

But the West German law is much more restrictive, requiring that women prove their pregnancy is life-threatening, caused by rape or incest, or could create severe social and economic hardship.

Participants in the summit meeting called by Kohl to meet again Wednesday will further talk on the treaty.

They did agree to an all-German parliament that would adopt rules governing abortion that would apply throughout the country. Elections for the all-German legislature are set for Dec. 2.

Typhoon claims 180 lives in China

PEKING (AP) — The death toll from typhoon Yancy, which hit coastal China last week, has risen to at least 183, an official report said Monday.

In Fujian province, which was hardest hit, 111 people died — 84 crushed by collapsing buildings, 25 drowned and two electrocuted, the China Daily said.

About 4.14 million people in Fujian lost their homes, 171,300 hectares (423,111 acres) of farmland were destroyed, 31,008

buildings collapsed and 447 bridges washed away, the report said.

An earlier report said the flooding would reduce Fujian's grain output this year by about 100 million pounds (45 million kilograms).

Rainfall topped 100 millimetres from August 19-23 in 61 Fujian counties. In Fujian county, more than 500 millimetres fell.

Earlier reports said the typhoon struck the coast of Fujian three times over the course

of one day last week. The province had already been hit by four typhoons in the past two months, Monday's report said.

In neighbouring Zhejiang province, 61 people were killed and nearly 300 injured by storm, which caused an estimated 300 million yuan (\$43 million) economic losses, the paper said.

Floods caused by typhoon Yancy in south China Guangdong province killed 11 people and injured 38 others, it said.

Japanese islands issue still blocks progress in Tokyo-Moscow talks

TOKYO (AP) — As a measure of how difficult the issues are between Japan and the Soviet Union, it may be considered progress that the two nations agree a peace treaty would mean disputes dating from World War II have been solved.

"That, of course, is the definition of a peace treaty."

But such basic reasoning is what Japanese diplomats are resorting to in a painstaking search for positive signs beckoning them further along the path in tortuous talks with the Soviets.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze will be in Tokyo next week for three days of negotiations with Taro Nakayama, his Japanese counterpart. The centerpiece, as always, will be Japan's demand for the Soviets to return a string of is-

lands grabbed in the last days of World War II.

The issue blocks agreement on a treaty officially ending the brief Soviet-Japanese hostilities during the war. Frosty relations continue between the two countries even as much of the rest of the world enjoys the end of the cold war.

Briefing reporters Monday on Shevardnadze's visit, a Foreign Ministry official said the two sides could not even agree to use the term "territorial dispute" to describe their root problem.

Yet he found a modest plus in the Soviet's willingness to say that an eventual peace pact could resolve the Japan-Soviet border and cover "the geographical aspects" of a treaty.

"Where will it lead to, I don't know," he said, speaking on condition he not be identified. "I'm

not optimistic, but I hope there will be sincere efforts by both sides to try to make progress towards finding some common breakthrough on the issue."

In preparatory meetings earlier this year, diplomats from two countries agreed that peace treaty would end war disputes, could strengthen diplomatic relations and should warm security interests of citizens, the official said.

But he conceded that such "converging views" could mask the "fundamental discrepancy" over the Soviet islands.

Shevardnadze's visit is to lay the groundwork for Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev's trip to Japan expected in spring, the first by a Soviet leader.

Indonesia ends press censorship

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesia said at the weekend it was ending press censorship unless national security was at risk but local editors received the news with some scepticism.

"Reporters are no longer restricted. They can write any news as long as it does not violate the code of ethics of the Indonesian Journalists' Association and national interests," Coordinating Minister for Politics and Security Sudomo said.

He was quoted as telling the Merdeka newspaper group the issue was discussed at a security meeting last week.

There would be no more phone calls from officials to editors telling them what they could print. "It is better that we gather the reporters and brief them on issues

that might endanger national interests." Articles in foreign newspapers would no longer be blacked out.

President Suharto's government, in power for almost quarter of a century, has kept tight control of the domestic press and recently embarked on its toughest censorship of the foreign media in more than two years.

"So far it's just a statement. That kind of statement has been issued before. The important thing is what is the reality," said one senior editor who said the Indonesian media were still heavily restricted.

Sudomo's comments follow a call by Suharto on Aug. 16 in his Independence Day speech for more open exchange of views.

The latest campaign of censorship has largely related to

foreign media coverage of a dissident group for more democracy for Suharto to relinquish power in his current term ends in '93.

Local newspapers did report the announcement before the president's speech, but the Journalists' Association

Sudomo, a close aide to Suharto, said while the government did not issue any ban, statements earlier this month the group were outside the situation and therefore violated the Journalists' Association

"Why be afraid, what our nation be like if it is haunted by fear," Sudomo was quoted as saying after he warned the press against publishing what he called "slandering opinions."

65 bodies found in Yugoslav mine

DOBRINJA, Yugoslavia (R) — Rescue workers have found the bodies of 65 miners killed in a coal mine explosion in central Yugoslavia, officials said Monday.

They were among about 178 miners trapped 500 metres underground by the blast in the Kreka Lignite Mine in Dobrinja Sunday.

The officials said all the men were feared dead but rescue teams were still searching the mine.

The bodies have not yet been removed from the mine, which was ripped apart by the explosion and resulting fireball.

Authorities said the blast probably was caused by methane gas

or coal dust.

Mine officials feared it would be Yugoslavia's worst mining disaster this century, exceeding the 128 killed in Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1965.

Rescue work in the mine, about 140 kilometres south west of Belgrade, has been hampered by explosive gases, high temperatures and a lack of transport.

"We cannot determine precisely when the bodies will be taken out of the pit because it would depend on repairing the area and making the transport system functional," the rescue teams said in a statement.

Rescue workers restored ventilation in the mine but gave up

hope of finding anyone alive after digging through rubble and twisted metal all day Sunday.

"I've not seen anything like it in 10 years as a rescue worker," said Sulejman Hasic, haggard and covered in coal dust.

"There's rubble blocking our way. The heat is almost unbearable. Carrying anyone out will be hell."

The blast sent chunks of concrete flying high into the air and drove a ball of fire out of the entrance, witnesses said.

It was the second mine disaster in Yugoslavia in less than a year. Ninety-one people were killed in a fire at the Aleksinac pit in Serbia last November.

Filipino army rebels threaten bloodless coup

MANILA (R) — Army rebels under cashed Colonel Gregorio Honasan, in a letter published in Manila papers Monday, said they would launch a bloodless takeover to oust President Corason Aquino soon and replace her with a civilian-military junta.

"There will simply be a peaceful breakaway or withdrawal of support from a reign of greed, lust and terror and announcement of support to a multi-partisan and multi-sectoral civilian executive council," Honasan said in the letter.

Aquino has survived six previous coup attempts, including the most serious one last Decem-

ber when at least 113 people died and 600 were wounded before loyal troops crushed the revolt.

But the military commander in charge of defending Manila against a coup said a rebel success would result in civil war.

Major-General Rodolfo Biazon, deputy chief-of-staff of the Philippine Armed Forces told a forum:

"If a coup succeeds, whoever is going to rule this country will have to handle a resurgence of the Communist New People's Army and Muslim rebels, contend with political warlords, and even contend with soldiers" (who opposed the coup).

Protesters reoccupy Bucharest square

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP) — About 300 anti-government demonstrators reoccupied a central square in the capital over the weekend after a clash with police in which 48 people arrested and two reportedly hurt.

The latest arrests brought to 80 the number of people detained in and around the square in the past week, police said in a communiqué Sunday.

On Saturday night, a clash erupted after police moved in, armed with clubs and shields. At least two people were reported hospitalised.

The police communiqué called on the public to support the authorities and "disassociate themselves from the destabilising demonstrations of ill-intentioned

elements, while can create dangerous tensions."

On Sunday, demonstrators at the square shouted slogans demanding the resignation of President Ion Iliescu.

Critics accuse Iliescu and his associates, who won free elections earlier this year, of keeping many of the policies of the authoritarian Communist leader Nicolae Ceausescu. Ceausescu and his wife Elena were ousted and executed in December's popular uprising.

The demonstrators at University Square, located at the main intersection on the capital's fashionable Bulevardul, disrupted traffic and forced motorists to use side streets.

NO TO THE STARVATION OF CHILDREN IN IRAQ

Join the mother and child march Wednesday, Aug. 29 in support of the children in Iraq, and against their starvation. The march will head to UNICEF regional office in Amman to present a memorandum urging the UNICEF and the whole world to stand up for the rights of children in Iraq, and to lift the inhuman milk and food embargo inflicted on them.

The General Union of Voluntary Societies.

COLUMN

Won't do no good to call police tell callers

WELLINGTON, (R) — Telephone callers to a Wellington police station may be given this advice: "It won't do no good to call. The police always come late — if they come at all." It's a line from a record by U.S. singer Tracy Chapman, which Lower Hutt Police Station plays to callers put on hold. Some New Zealanders complain that the police, stretched by rising crime in a traditionally peaceful country, are slow to respond to emergency calls. With a general election due on Oct. 27, Lower Hutt police are also playing a Tracy Chapman track called "Fast Kin" about a revolution. "But they aren't trying to make a political statement, according to a senior officer. They just like the music."

Pickled parrots die with death

SYDNEY (R) — Intoxicated parrots are mixing drinking and driving with fatal results in Australia's sugar cane capital. The parrots are drinking fermented raw sugar off the roads, forgetting how to fly and being plastered by passing traffic. "All we could see was this squashed mass of green and more (birds) still eating the sugar off the road," said Rosalyn Leslie, a resident of Bundaberg in Queensland, Monday. "We stopped, beeped our horn and got out to try to shoot them off the road. But they were silly on the sugar and refused to move." Dew settles on the roads overnight, dissolving the raw sugar spilt by trucks transporting cane, local sugar officials say. The sun then ferments the mixture.

Tom King to take a different plunge

OAK HILL, West Virginia (AP) — Tom King plans to take a plunge of a different sort on his wedding day. He says he will have his bride, a 13-year-old girl, jump off a bridge.

King plans to wed Vivian Campbell on Oct. 20 during the annual Bridge Day festivities at the New River Gorge Bridge. Then he plans to do a parachute and jump into the gorge, along with two groomsmen and several wedding guests. Bridge Day is the only day of the year people can legally jump off the bridge, one of North America's tallest. The event attracts hundreds of parachutists from around the world. King, 39, and Campbell, 34, both of Memphis, Tennessee, got engaged on Bridge Day last year.

More French preferring water to wine

PARIS (R) — One French adult in two never drinks wine and only one in five imbibes every day, according to a new poll. Many prefer water. The poll, conducted by the French National Wine Office, testifies to a huge drop in wine consumption in a country that produces more than six billion litres (1.6 billion gallons) a year. In 1980, fewer than two in 10 French men and women never drank wine and one out of three drank wine every day. The poll shows that: Most non-drinkers shun wine because they don't like the taste, not for health reasons.

Polanski can send lawyer to defend him

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Film director Roman Polanski, a fugitive since 1977 for having sex with a 13-year-old girl, can send a lawyer to defend himself against a lawsuit filed by the victim, a state appeals court ruled. In a 2-1 ruling Monday, the court said Polanski did not forfeit the right to defend himself by his "reprehensible, irresponsible and unlawful absence." A lawyer for the woman said the ruling will be appealed to the state Supreme Court. Polanski pleaded guilty in 1977 to unlawful sexual intercourse with a minor at the home of actor Jack Nicholson. He fled before being sentenced and now lives in Paris. The unidentified victim sued in 1988 for damages for physical and emotional distress. The woman asked for a default ruling against Polanski, that is, a ruling declaring him the loser. She argued that a fugitive should not be allowed to use the courts to defend himself. Superior Court Judge George Dell refused to find Polanski in default and the appeals court agreed.

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